



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,865	10/25/2001	Stefan M. Pallazza	S63.2-9720	9976
490	7590	09/19/2006	EXAMINER	
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A. 6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE SUITE 2000 MINNETONKA, MN 55343-9185			NGUYEN, VI X	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3734

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/682,865	PALLAZZA, STEFAN M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Victor X. Nguyen	3734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9, 11, 12, 14, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29 and 64-67 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10, 13, 15, 20, 21, 24, 27 and 30-63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6, 11, 12, 14, 22, 25, 26 and 64-67 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 7-9, 28-29 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. In response to applicant's amendment of 1/13/2006, the examiner has removed all prior 35 USC § 112 rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-6,11-12,14,22,25-26 and 64-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gaudoin et al (U.S. 6,296,655).

Gaudoin et al disclose in Figs. 1-2,4 and 6-8, a device for configuring an inflatable balloon (15) of a balloon catheter assembly having the limitations of the above listed claims, including: a body comprises a plurality of inflatable members (25) defining a channel (34), where the channel sizes to accommodate at least a portion of a balloon catheter (10), where each inflatable member has a balloon contacting portion (30). In fact, Gaudoin et al disclose in figs. 7-8, quite clearly, the inflatable members (25) extends part of the way about the channel but does not encircle the channel. As to claims 2-6, 11-12,22 and 65-67, Gaudoin et al disclose the device comprises at least three inflatable members (fig.4). The inflatable members are tubular and have a circular cross section. The device further has a rigid tube (18). The tube has a first end with a first opening and a second end with a second opening that has a passage therethrough; and where

Art Unit: 3734

the plurality of inflatable members are disposed in one spiral about the channel (figs.5), and where the inflatable members are generally tubular and have a generally wedge shaped (fig. 3) where the balloon contacting portion is made of a compliant material and non-compliant materials such as latex, PET, Polyethylene or silicone (see col. 1, lines 39-45 and col. 2, lines 60-64), and where the body is disposed between first and second end supports, where the first and second end supports are joined by a plurality of connecting members that are spaced apart from the body . As to claims 25-26, Gauđoin et al disclose in Figs. 1-2,4 and 6-8, a method for configuring an inflatable balloon of a balloon catheter assembly having the limitations of claims 25-26, including: a body comprises a plurality of inflatable members (25) defining a channel. Each inflatable member has a balloon contacting portion.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7-9 and 28-29 which depend on claim 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, discloses all of the limitations of claim 7 including, the device further comprises first and second end caps, where the first end cap disposed at the first end of the tube across the first opening and the second end cap disposed at the second end of the tube across the second opening, and where the inflatable members extend from the first and second end caps, the inflatable members in relative alignment with one another, the first and second end caps support the inflatable members.

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 6/16/2006 have been considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the Gaudoin's reference does not disclose each inflatable member has a balloon contacting portion. It is noted that figures 3-4 and 7-8 of Gaudoin can be clearly defined element 25 as an inflatable member which has a balloon contacting portion at 30. Accordingly, the above noted reference is still considered to read on the claimed limitations of the claims noted.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3734

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Victor X Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 3734

VN
9/12/2006


MICHAEL J. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER